

# Outdoor Report

The week of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014



*South Dakota*



## Wildlife Division

**"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"**

- 
- **East River Deer season runs November 22<sup>nd</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>. Reminder: only antlerless tags are valid during the late season, any deer tags do not convert.**
  - **Reminder: It is illegal to shoot big game from the road/vehicle. It is also illegal to pursue, chase or harass big game with a vehicle. To make it simple, get out of the vehicle and make it a hunt to remember.**
- 

## Brown County



### Fishing Report:

**The lakes and rivers have just recently frozen over. All fishermen and hunters should use extreme caution as the ice is unsafe at this time. With the wind on Sunday, parts of the James River re-opened.**



### Hunting Report:

**Pheasants:** Hunters are finding more pheasants in southern Brown County. Hunters have had to work to get a limit of birds. Most hunters are finding pheasants in cattail sloughs.

**Waterfowl:** With all the water freezing up, most of the waterfowl have migrated out of the area. There are still some small flocks of mallards and Canada geese by Sand Lake Refuge.

**Deer:** Deer hunters had decent success hunting deer this weekend. The wind on Sunday made deer hunting difficult. The bucks are still in full rut.

---

## Clark County



### Fishing Report:

Some anglers are starting to venture out in places like Antelope/Indian Springs, Casey, Swan, and Dry #2; no reports at this time. Ice depths vary between 3-8 inches so extreme caution is required.



### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** Most waterfowl have pushed through the area. There are a few pockets of ducks and geese around the larger bodies of water.

**Deer:** Deer have begun to group up and move towards their wintering ground or food sources. Hunters had good opportunity and saw lots of deer on Saturday but things got a little tougher on Sunday when the wind came up.

**Pheasant:** Pheasants spread out a little with the melting snow this weekend. The best hunting opportunity is in or near heavy cover. Hunters are reporting 2 – 3 birds per hunter.

---

## Codington County



### Fishing Report:

**Pelican Lake:** The occasional angler is trying their luck with no report of a good bite on the far west and east ends.

**Lame Kampeska:** No activity.

**Dry Lake:** There is some ice-fishing activity on the west end of the lake. There are reports of some walleye and perch being caught.

**Goose Lake:** Some ice-fishing activity on the NE end and along the Grover road.

**Long Lake:** Some ice-fishing activity along the sunken road with reports of a few perch being caught in the 10 to 11 inch range.

**Blythe Slough:** Some ice-fishing activity with a few perch being caught.

**Wolf Slough:** Some ice-fishing activity with a few small perch being caught in the NW corner.

**Baileys Slough:** Some ice-fishing activity along the road with some small perch being caught.



### Hunting Report:

**Ducks:** Very few ducks in the area. Most are seen where there is open water.

**Geese:** Most of the geese have pushed through. There are stragglers where there is open water.

**Pheasants:** Some decent opportunity for pheasant hunters across the area. The pheasants were very visible and could be seen almost everywhere this past weekend. Warmer temperatures this weekend caused some ground to show through the snow which is good for the pheasants.

**Deer:** The rut is still going on as the ERD opener took place this past weekend. Deer could be seen everywhere moving around due to the warmer temperatures. Hunters had minimal success. In talking to hunters, many passed up on shots in hopes of something else coming by.

---

## Day County



### Fishing Report:

Ice fishermen have utilized the early ice to get out on the lakes, but productivity has been very slow with very few fishermen having much success.



### Hunting Report:

**Goose:** A few small flocks remain, but the majority of the geese have moved south.

**Duck:** A few flocks can still be found headed south, but the vast majority has flown south.

**Pheasant:** Pheasant hunting remains productive in areas where crops have been harvested. Only a few fields remain where crops are still standing. With the recent snow locating birds in dense cover will be your best bet.

**Swan:** Swans have moved south.

---

## Deuel County



### Fishing Report:

Ice conditions are getting better, but please continue to use caution on all lakes. Ice thickness is about an average of 5 inches.

**Lake Alice:** Some perch and walleye are being caught in the bay in the southwest corner of the lake.

**Lake Cochrane:** No activity yet.

**Lake Francis:** No activity.

**Lake Ketchum:** No activity.

**Clear Lake:** No activity.

**Fish Lake:** No activity.

**Round:** No activity.

**School:** A few perch and northern pike are being caught. Most anglers are just walking out on the ice from the south side of the lake along 169<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Bullhead Lakes:** A few anglers have ventured out, with little success.



## Hunting Report:

**Canada goose:** The geese have left the area.

**Duck:** Ducks have left the area.

**Pheasant:** Hunters have been having a little more success with the snow. Cattails along frozen sloughs have provided pretty good opportunity of pheasant hunters.

**Deer:** A lot of deer were harvested over opening weekend of the East River Deer season.

---

## Faulk County



### Fishing Report:

Fishing is slow throughout the area.



## Hunting Report:

**Pheasant:** Hunters are finding great bird numbers in heavy cover. The warm weather from the weekend got the birds a little more spread out. Hunters are averaging around 2 birds per day.

**Deer:** Hunters had great luck opening weekend. Some very nice bucks were harvested in the western half of the county.

---

## Grant County



### Fishing Report:

**Big Stone Lake:** Ice conditions are getting better. Anglers have been using ATV's and snowmobiles to get on and off the ice. Anglers are catching a few perch in the 8 to 11 inch range. Most of the pressure has been directed between the Kasuske Access Area and the Rearing Ponds Access.



## Hunting Report:

**Big Stone Power Plant:** There is still a decent amount of birds utilizing the power plant. There are roughly 4,000 Canada geese and a few thousand ducks. Typically, the birds have been feeding late in the mornings or early

in the afternoons. They have been known to fly earlier. Hunters having the best success have been making a full day out of their trip so that they don't miss the main flight.

**Pheasant:** Hunters are seeing a few more birds now that the snow is here. Hunters are still going to have to put on a lot of miles walking to find much success.

**Deer:** The opening weekend of the East River Deer season proved to be successful for many hunters. Deer movement has been high throughout the day.

---

## Hamlin County



### Fishing Report:

**Lake Poinsett:** Anglers are starting to attempt some ice-fishing. No reports of a good bite.

**Lake Norden:** No Activity.

**Lakes John/Marry:** No Activity

**Fedt Slough:** Some ice-fishing activity off of the road on both sides. No report of a good bite.

**Three Buck:** Some ice-fishing activity with anglers pulling portables out to try it. No reports of a good bite.



### Hunting Report:

**Ducks:** Most of the ducks have left the area and headed south. A few may be hanging around any open water.

**Geese:** Most of the geese have moved on through heading south.

**Pheasants:** Over the weekend during the ERD opener there were lots of pheasants visible throughout the area. Any attempts at pheasant hunting would have paid off.

**Deer:** ERD opener was very quiet and slow. Most hunters passed on shots at deer in hopes for something bigger. There were lots of deer visible due to the nice weather.

---

## Marshall County



### Fishing Report:

**Opitz:** A few walleye are being caught just off of the boat ramp.

**Piyas:** Some walleye and perch are being caught.

**Roy:** Some nice northern with the occasional walleye and perch are being caught in the channel around the Roy Lake Resort point.

**Clear:** No activity.

**White:** No activity.

**West Stink:** A few walleye are being caught in the morning and evening.



### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** No waterfowl observed in the county.

**Deer:** Hunters had decent luck targeting areas of the county that still have un-harvested corn. The hunters that made the effort and got out of the vehicle had very high success rates.

**Pheasant:** Hunters had decent success over the weekend. It seems like the birds are hanging out in cattails next to harvested corn fields.

---

## McPherson & Edmunds Counties



### Fishing Report:

There is 3 to 4 inches of ice. Use caution.



### Hunting Report:

**Pheasant:** Success was not very good. Hunters averaged about 1 bird per person since opening weekend. Pheasants are bunched up in tree belts and heavy cover.

**Deer:** Hunters are reporting having good luck. Most hunters are seeing deer and harvesting deer. Deer are bunched up and are hard to get close to.

---

## Roberts County



### Fishing Report:

**Lake Traverse:** Some activity, but action is slow. Be cautious of the ice conditions.

**Dry Wood Lake:** Some activity and anglers are finding a walleye or pike to take home. Be cautious of the ice conditions.



### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** Most ducks and geese are gone, but hunters may find hunt-able numbers coming off the Big Stone Power Plant.

**Grouse:** Grouse hunters are struggling to find birds.

**Pheasant:** Hunters had difficulty finding birds, but they are finding one or two.

**Deer:** Deer are still in rut and a lot of nice bucks were shot this weekend.

---

## Spink County



### Fishing Report:

**Ice is new and thin in a lot of areas. Use extreme caution.**

**Twin Lake:** No fishing activity observed.

**Mud Lake:** No fishing activity observed.

**Cottonwood Lake:** Anglers are trying some ice fishing. Use caution. Ice is approximately 4 inches.

**Redfield Lake:** No fishing activity observed.



### Hunting Report:

**Pheasant:** Hunters are having great success pheasant hunting in heavy cover areas where the birds are holding.

**Deer:** Rifle hunters had decent success opening weekend. Some nice bucks were harvested, as well as healthy does. Deer movement is good, as the rut is still on according to reports.